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June 28, 2002

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Art Unit 1634

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/608,066; Filed: June 30, 2000

For: Compositions and Methods for Enhanced Sensitivity and Specificity

of Nucleic Acid Synthesis

Inventors:

Astatke et al.

Our Ref:

0942.4990001/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
- 2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Brian J. Del Buono

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 42,473

BJD/nef

Enclosures

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